

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

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S E C R E T BOGOTA 1739

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: AMGT, PEPR, US, CO
SUBJECT: GOALS AND OBJECTIVES : IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR COLOMBIA

REFS: A) 78 STATE 036493 B) 78 STATE 034007

1. FOLLOWING IS THE IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR COLOMBIA, REQUESTED
IN REF B. RESPONSES ARE KEYED TO PARAGRAPHS IN REF A.

I. THE EMBASSY MAINTAINS CLOSE CONTACT WITH THE PRI RIPAL PRE-
SIDENTIAL CANDIDATES AND THEIR KEY SUPPORTERS THROUGH FORMAL
AND INFORMAL MEETINGS, INCLUDING A SERIES OF LUNCHEONS HOSTED
BY THE AMBASSADOR. THE GOC HAS NOT RAISED THE QUITA SUENO IS-
SUE SINCE PRESIDENT CARTER PROMISED PRESIDENT LOPEZ THAT HE
WOULD LOOK INTO THE PROBLEM PERSONALLY.

II. THE AMBASSADOR EMPHASIZES NARCOTICS MATTERS IN MEETINGS
WITH THE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES AND HAS RECEIVED ASSURANCES
OF CLOSE COOPERATION FROM THE TWO LEADING LIBERAL CANDIDATES.
A MEETING WITH THE CONSERVATIVE CANDIDATE IS PENDING. THE
EMBASSY HAS BEGUN IMPELTATION OF THE INTERDICTION PROGRAM
PROPOSED IN THE FY 79 NCAP FOR COLOMBIA. USIS CONTINUES TO
PROVIDE THE MEDIA WITH MATERIAL ON DRUG ABUSE AND TRAFFICKING.
THE FOREIGN MINISTRY HAS AGREED TO INITIATE DISCUSSIONS RE-
GARDING A NEW EXTRADITION TREATY TO MORE ADEQUATELY COVER
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NARCOTICS OFFENSES.

III. EMBASSY OFFICERS CONSULTED WITH THE GOC AND RECEIVED AS-
SURANCES OF ITS SUPPORT ON RECENT HUMAN RIGHTS RELATED ISSUES
INCLUDING URUGUAY'S OFFER TO HOST THE OASGA, AND THE UN
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MEETING IN GENEVA. THEY HAVE ALSO DIS-
CUSSED THE RECENT HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT ON COLOMBIA WITH FOREIGN

MINISTRY OFFICIALS AND OTHERS, STRESSING US SUPPORT FOR COLOMBIA'S COMMITMENT TO DEMOCRACY.

IV. IN 78 BOGOTA 1428 THE EMBASSY DISCUSSES THIS ISSUE IN DETAIL AND SUGGESTS A CONTINUED US EFFORT TO EFFECT THE DESIRED PROGRAM MODIFICATIONS.

V. EMBASSY OFFICERS FREQUENTLY CONSULT WITH INVESTORS AND GOC AGENCIES IN SUPPORT OF US INVESTMENT, AND STRESS TRADE POLICY LIBERALIZATION, PARTICULARLY IN ASSOCIATION WITH MTN AND GATT. REGARDING COUNTERVAILING DUTY INVESTIGATIONS, TREASURY EXPERTS VISITED COLOMBIA IN JANUARY 1978, AND A VISIT TO WASHINGTON BY HIGH-LEVEL GOC OFFICIALS IN APRIL IS POSSIBLE. NEGOTIATIONS FOR A NEW BILATERAL TEXTILE AGREEMENT ARE SCHEDULED FOR SPRING 1978. A TECHNICIAN TEAM WILL VISIT COLOMBIA IN FEBRUARY TO DISCUSS TEXTILE CATEGORY CHANGES. THE EMBASSY ALSO HAS SUBMITTED REPORTS ON THE LOCAL TEXTILE INDUSTRY AND ON RISING SENTIMENTS AGAINST ALLEGED US PROTECTIONISM.

VI. THE EMBASSY IS IN CLOSE CONTACT WITH IFI REPRESENTATIVES AND IS KEEPING THE DEPARTMENT INFORMED OF COLOMBIA'S ECONOMIC SITUATION TO ASSIST WASHINGTON POLICY-MAKERS IN REACHING DECISIONS AFFECTING IFI LOANS TO COLOMBIA. ALTHOUGH THE EMBASSY EXPRESSES ITS SUPPORT FOR ANDEA INTEGRATION WHEN POSSIBLE, RELATED STATEMENTS FROM HIGH ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS FREQUENTLY HAVE A GREATER LOCAL IMPACT.

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VII. THE EMBASSY, WHEN PROVIDED WITH TIMELY INSTRUCTIONS FROM THE DEPARTMENT, CAN MOST EFFECTIVELY ENCOURAGE COLOMBIAN SUPPORT IN INTERNATIONAL FORA THROUGH HIGH-LEVEL REPRESENTATIONS, PRIMARILY TO THE FOREIGN MINISTRY. REGARDING THE NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE, THE EMBASSY, IN ADDITION TO THE ABOVE, ARRANGED FOR AN IV GRANT FOR 1977 FOR COLOMBIA' KEY TRADE NEGOTIATOR.

VIII. THE ACCOMPLISHMENT OF THIS GOAL IS IN JEOPARDY DUE TO THE UNEXPECTED SHORTFALL IN FMS FY 1977 AND 1978 CREDITS FROM AN ORIGINALLY ANTICIPATED \$55 MILLION TO A NOW PROGRAMMED \$31 MILLION FOR BOTH YEARS. THIS DECREASE WILL HAVE AN IMPORTANT NEGATIVE EFFECT ON COLOMBIAN ARMED FORCES (CAF) CAPABILITIES AND ON THE DEGREE OF COOPERATION THAT THE US CAN EXPECT FROM THE CAF (BOGOTA 0596).

IX. FOLLOWING PRESIDENT LOPEZ' CONFIRMATION IN TALKS WITH PRESIDENT CARTER OF THE GOC'S DECISION NOT TO PURSUE NPT RATIFICATION, THE EMBASSY SOUGHT, AS AN INTERIM MEASURE, GOC IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TLALELOLCO TREATY'S NUCLEAR SAFEGUARDS AGREEMENT. THE FOREIGN MINISTRY IS STUDYING THIS PROPOSAL, BUT IT IS DOUBTFUL THAT ANYTHING CONCRETE CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED ON

THIS ISSUE IN THE FEW REMAINING MONTHS OF THE PRESENT ADMINISTRATION. INSTRUCTIONS FROM THE DEPARTMENT ON THE NEGOTIATION OF A BILATERAL NUCLEAR AGREEMENT HAVE BEEN REQUESTED.

X. THIS CAN BEST BE ACCOMPLISHED THROUGH HIGH-LEVEL REPRESENTATIONS TO THE GOC AND CONTINUED US ASSISTANCE IN FULFILLING COLOMBIA'S OWN SMALL MILITARY REQUIREMENTS.

XI. USIS CONTINUES ITS ANNUAL PROJECTS AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES AND THE FULBRIGHT/INTERNATIONAL VISITOR EXCHANGE PROGRAM WITH OVER 100 GRANTS, EXCHANGES, AND REGIONAL SEMINARS PROGRAMMED IN FY 78. COLOMBIAN MEDIA REMAIN RECEPTIVE TO USIS INFORMATION PROGRAMS WHICH EXPLAIN THE US POSITION ON A VARIETY OF ISSUES. THE EXTENSIVE NETWORK OF BINATIONAL CENTERS IS ALSO
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USED AS A MAJOR PROGRAMMING OUTLET.

XII. THE EMBASSY SEEKS CONSULAR ACCESS RIGHTS IN INDIVIDUAL CASES WHILE CONTINUING DISCUSSIONS WITH GOC OFFICIALS ON THIS AND OTHER CONSULAR ISSUES, INCLUDING AN EXCHANGE OF PENAL SANCTIONS TREATY AND ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION. IN A SEPARATE MESSAGE, THE EMBASSY WILL REQUEST FROM THE DEPARTMENT THE DRAFT OF A PROPOSED NEW CONSULAR CONVENTION WITH COLOMBIA.
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